

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 543
By Fowler

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Janice Spillman on the occasion of her retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Janice Spillman is one such estimable person who has served the State of Tennessee with distinction since 1968, and the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities since 1971; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Spillman began her career with the State of Tennessee thirty-eight years ago, serving first as a social worker for the Greene County Department of Human Services, and then for the Green Valley Development Center and the Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute; and

WHEREAS, as the Assistant Director of Developmental Disabilities, Janice Spillman began her long years of distinguished service with the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities in 1971; and

WHEREAS, from 1972 until 1995, Ms. Spillman served the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities in a variety of directorships, including two years as Director of Federal Social Services Programming, six years as Director of the Office of Training and Rehabilitation for the Retarded Offender, ten years as Director of Special Services, and five years as the Mental Retardation Secure Facility Director; her expertise in planning, implementing and coordinating these programs was an invaluable asset to the Department, and;

WHEREAS, Janice Spillman recently took a much deserved retirement after ten years of meritorious service as Director of the Department's Office of Planning, Legislation and Regulation; her valuable commitment, wealth of knowledge, and body of work have resulted in a

better quality of life, public assistance, and citizens' rights for those citizens served by the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities; and

WHEREAS, in her ultimate position, Ms. Spillman worked with numerous members of the General Assembly and with community service agencies to increase the knowledge base about issues and laws pertaining to those Tennesseans who have mental illness, mental retardation and other developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Janice Spillman is an active and important part of her community and her profession; she is a tireless worker who holds a Master's Degree in social work, and has also found time to obtain a law degree from the Nashville School of Law;

WHEREAS, she has been devoted to helping children and offenders with mental retardation within the State's juvenile justice system, especially through her service as Director of the Harold W. Jordan Center, the only forensic services unit in the State; and

WHEREAS, through the scope of her work and wealth of knowledge concerning quality of life, fair housing issues, and protections for people with mental illness, mental retardation and developmental disabilities, Ms. Spillman has served as a role model for all State employees who strive to achieve the highest level of excellence, commitment, and compassion for all citizens of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Janice Spillman our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.